

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
May 24, 2006, 4:30 p.m. Council Chambers

PRESENT

Ian Kohen
Greg Lewis
Tony McClendon
Jay Myers
Akua Ofori-Boateng
John Roberts
John Stroh

ABSENT

Gil Palmer
Wes Roy
Marie Schroeder
Jason Staley

***** Meeting Called to Order *****

STAFF PRESENT:

Director Arlette Tinsley, Deputy Director Lorraine Smith, Secretary Lula Young.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Commissioner Roberts called roll. **Commissioner Roberts moved to accept the April Minutes as submitted, Commissioner Lewis seconded. Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Lewis reported the current balance, as of April 27, 2006, of \$5,802.84. Less expenditures of \$1,715.00, for catering, location rent and other rentals and annual dinner ticket deposits of \$1,380.00 gives an account balance of \$5,467.84.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Vice Chairperson Myers welcomed the three new Commissioners and requested Commissioner and Staff members introduce themselves. (Commissioner Kohen arrived at this time)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Tinsley welcomed the newest Commissioners and distributed a newsletter to all, then provided an overview of the contents. Her report in the newsletter provided information on the annual dinner, essay/art contest winners, Northside Titan's exhibit and Law's Award winners.

The Director informed Commissioners of the past month's activities that included attending the Mayor's Staff and Board of Works meetings. Director Tinsley met with the Taylorsville

Elementary School Staff during their 4-hour in-service training and presented the new anti-bullying statue.

Director Tinsley encouraged Commissioners to visit the Peace Learning Center located at the Columbus Youth Camp. The Peace Learning Center is using the Youth Camp exclusively to teach students tools for conflict resolution.

The Director advised commissioners of other activities attended by the Director and Deputy Director such as KidsCommons meetings, Leadership Bartholomew County meetings and the monitoring of mediation compliance by the deputy director.

Director Tinsley announced that Lt. Rudy Olivo tendered his retirement-resignation to the Columbus Police Department. He has accepted a position with the State of Indiana Gaming Commission and as of May 31, the police department will not have a cultural liaison officer. A request was received from the Mayor to draft a civilian job description for the Cultural Liaison position. The police department has a new officer out of the academy that is fluent in Spanish.

Director Tinsley reported that immediately after the annual dinner, it would be time for the annual budget review. This review does not apply to the non-reverting account that is used for the Annual Dinner. The relevant budget is taxpayer supported and controlled by State Board of Accounts rules and regulations.

Director Tinsley informed Commissioners that there have been no issues relating to the articles that appeared in the East Oracle article. Commissioner Lewis advised that student writers have not reported any incidents.

Additional events reported by Director Tinsley included the Immigration Issues Group, May 1 events, where both Mayor Armstrong and Juana Watson spoke; all events were successful and that the evening session was well attended.

The Mayor's Community Development office requested technical assistance in drafting an agreement that businesses who apply for tax abatements may sign affirming that they are complying with immigration laws and following the guidelines when hiring immigrants.

Director Tinsley and the Ad Hoc Committee to met for the purpose of planning and forming a structure. Commissioner Kohen has sent out an email outlining their goal.

OPEN FORUM/DISCUSSION:

Northside Titan's Human Rights Exhibit: Director Tinsley thanked all Commissioners for their attendance and judging of the student exhibits.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Anti-Bullying Taskforce – The Taylorsville Elementary Task force requested financial support for their fall kick-off 2006 campaign. Vice Chairperson Myers voiced support of a \$200 contribution.

Commissioner Roberts moved to provide \$200 for Taylorsville and their Anti-Bullying initiative. Commissioner Stroh seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL DINNER/ESSAY CONTEST:

Commissioners reviewed the guest list and seating charts. Commissioners volunteered for host assignments and volunteers were confirmed for both the exhibit and dinner.

Director Tinsley provided Commissioners with a copy of the Policy Governing the Distribution of Material and Literature at the Annual Dinner of CHRC by Persons and Organizations Other than the Columbus Human Rights Commission to review prior to the dinner.

LIAISON UPDATES – GAY/STRAIGHT ALLIANCE:

Commissioner Roberts attended a meeting of the G/SA and updated Commissioners on the meeting.

ADJOURN:

Commissioner Lewis moved to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Roberts seconded. Meeting adjourned.